



ANGLOPHONE WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL

Fredericton Inn & Conference Centre

1315 Regent Street, Fredericton, NB

Public Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 29, 2020

Council Members Present:

- Tanya Adams – SD 01
- Andy Saunders – SD 02
- Heather Hogan – SD 03
- Andrew Corey – SD 05
- Laura O’Brien – SD 06
- Sean Winslow – SD 08
- Jane Buckley – SD 09 – Vice Chair
- Kimberley Douglass – SD 10 – Chair
- Faith Kennedy – SD 11
- Wallace Carr – SD 12
- Thomas Geburt – SD 13

Council Member Regrets:

- Miriam Grant – SD 04
- David Perley - First Nations

ASD-W District Staff Present:

- David McTimoney, Superintendent
- Carol Clark-Caterini, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & DEC
- Shawn Tracey, Director of Finance & Administration
- Dianne Kay, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
- Wayne Annis, Director of Schools – FEC
- Gina Dunnett, Director of Schools – OEC
- Jon Hoyt-Hallett, Science (K-12) Subject Coordinator
- Marc Michaud, EST Digital Learning Lead
- Rob Hohmann, Information Technology II

Vacancies:

- Vacant – Sub-district 7
- Vacant – Student Representative

Guests

- Media (1)

Call to Order / Comments by the Chair:

- Kimberley Douglass, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at **6:32 PM**. The Chairperson recognized that this meeting was held on the unceded and unsundered territory of the Wolastoqiyik people. Chairperson Douglass also recognized Indigenous students that attend our schools whose heritage is from other Indigenous communities.

Approval of the Agenda – October 29, 2020:

- The agenda was reviewed by the Council and revisions were made to move the Curriculum & Program Presentation to the top of the agenda and the Circle of Understanding was removed as Councillor David Perley is absent from this meeting. With these changes, the agenda was approved by consensus.

Approval of the Minutes – September 17, 2020:

- Councillors had previously reviewed the last public meeting minutes and approval was given by consensus.

Business Arising from the Minutes:

- **High School Principal Meeting – Expectation, Attendance & Rotation Update:** The Superintendent informed the Council that we have 20 High School learning settings (*19 High Schools and 1 Alternate Setting*) in Anglophone West School District. Of these 20 learning settings, 10 schools are now in a full blended learning stage where students attend school on one day and continue their learning at home the following day. Three high schools have only certain grade levels that participate in the blended learning model and 7 schools do not participate in this model due to a smaller class size.

- The Superintendent acknowledge the concerns he had learned of some teachers not understanding the blended learning model; therefore, two meetings have occurred with High School Administrators where expectations of this model were clearly communicated. In addition, a response was provided to those that had reached out to him by e-mail. Further to this, a Professional Learning Day had been shifted to an earlier date so that teachers could learn more about technology and the daily teaching tools available. A budget amount of \$100.00 per teacher has been provided by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to assist with the purchase of technology needs.
- Educators are expected to collect student attendance and communicate with all students daily. If a Parent/Guardian has concerns about the teaching instruction model not occurring in their child's class, they are to contact the school and speak with the School Principal. If changes do not occur, then they are asked to then reach out to their Director of Schools and finally the Superintendent's office to have this matter addressed, as needed.

Presentations:

Curriculum & Program Presentation:

- Dianne Kay, Jon Hoyt-Hallett, and Marc Michaud presented the Teacher Learning Resource Site to Councillors. The number of times a teacher accesses the site it is recorded. Since August 2020, the data shows that this site was accessed 13,176 times. A "News and Events" site is available for teachers to participate in on-line learning and access resources. Every Subject Coordinator have developed a site where teachers can collaborate and network for ongoing support.
- It was noted that each site is different depending on the need of the curriculum. For instance, literacy has a resource site as opposed to a communication site. However, each site has a pedagogical side and a technology piece.
- Teachers requested to learn how technology could support learning, so the ASD-W Technology site was created where all safe virtual platform sites could be accessed. This site is the primary location that teachers use to deliver their courses to students. Improving technology skills is a common goal for many teachers along with the pedagogical piece for teaching.
- A Distance Learning Book Study is currently occurring amongst educators and using the Teacher Resource Site. On October 30th, a Professional Learning Day has been scheduled for all ASD-W Educators where technology and the Teachers Resource Site will be the focus.
- Councillor Saunders recognized the expertise and hard work involved in the creation of the Teacher Learning Resource site by the Curriculum and Instruction Team. Councillor Saunders went on to say that teachers are benefitting immensely by this resource and asked if students could also be provided with a student site where they could network with their peers, access resources for their learning and be involved in professional learning opportunities. Students had not been involved in the creation of this site, but as ASD-W continues to move forward with on-line technology, this recommendation is appreciated as students could benefit from a similar site. Enrichment students and/or a bonus project could involve students in the creation of a Student Learning Resource Site.
- Councillor Hogan congratulated the team on their exceptional work, and during this time of a pandemic, to support Teachers with the teaching needs.
- **ACTION:** Councillor O'Brien requested that Dianne Kay inform the Council, at the next public meeting, on the number of times the Teacher Resource Site had been accessed since August 2020 to that time.

Circle of Understanding – Land Claims - Wabanaki Title:

- This presentation was postponed due to the absence of David Perley, First Nations Councillor.

DEC Goals:

- Councillor Buckley had previously shared the two District Education Council Goals that had been discussed at previous working meetings with the Council. They are:
 - ***DEC Goal 1*** – *The Council will learn more about digital learning through curriculum presentations to support the role of the Superintendent.*
 - ***DEC Goal 2*** – *In an effort to support the Superintendent, the Council will reinforce their commitment to support the social, emotional learning and well-being of staff and students in ASD-W with accessible mental health tools and resources.*

MOTION:

..... I so move to accept the two DEC Goals.

MOVED BY: Jane Buckley

SECONDED BY: Sean Winslow

MOTION CARRIED

New Business:

Minister's Excellence in Education Teaching Award – New Committee Members:

- The deadline to accept nominations was extended to October 30, 2020. Councillor Geburt, Councillor O'Brien and Councillor Carr volunteered as new members of the Awards Committee. Their deadline to review each nomination and prepare a write-up for the awards ceremony is November 30, 2020.

Provincial Policy 409: Multi-Year School Infrastructure Planning - Burton Elementary School:

- Councillor Buckley informed the Council of her recent fact findings concerning Burton Elementary School. **Fact Findings:** In 2016 the community population of Burton was 5119; earlier projections put the community population at 4500 in the year 2020. In 2015, the projected student enrollment for 2020 for Burton Elementary School was 49 students. The actual student enrollment in 2020 is 37 students. There are 9.2 FTE staff at this facility for 37 students, they are: 3.2 Teachers, 3 Educational Assistants, 1 Custodian, 1 Principal, and 1 Administrative Assistant.
- Councillor Buckley stated that by supporting a Provincial Policy 409 study on the Burton Elementary School now, it would relieve some pressure by reducing the number of schools, that will need to be studied with the Town of Oromocto schools. Councillor Buckley acknowledged 4 elementary schools, in the Town of Oromocto that are within 20 km of the Burton Elementary School, and 2 middle schools that will be part of a future study. Students in Grades K–12 from the Burton area, except for 37 Burton Elementary students, are bused to schools in Oromocto every day. The Oromocto schools offer a larger space and have more access to learning supports, guidance, and physical education.
- Councillor Saunders asked in the state of a pandemic, can consideration be given to a later timeframe.
- Councillor Geburt reviewed the outcome of previous studies that had occurred at Burton Elementary School, and the decision last year to not study the Town of Oromocto Schools and area but rather study the Bath area schools. Councillor Geburt stated that in a state of a pandemic, he would not support a study at this time.
- Councillor Carr acknowledged the recent Policy 409 studies that had occurred at Burton Elementary School and he noted that the functional capacity was higher than provided by Councillor Buckley. Some staff would still need to follow students to their new school location and the school has undergone recent upgrades and renovations. Councillor Carr recognized 10 student transfers had occurred due to daycare and 6 student transfers had occurred for students to attend the French Immersion Program. These transfers were approved by District Office and this has allowed 16 students in the K-2 grade level to attend other schools outside of their community of Burton. Councillor Carr finished by stating that he would not support this study.
- The Superintendent reviewed the functional capacity given by Councillor Carr had been based on 2 classrooms, when in fact, there are 5 rooms at this facility that are classroom size rooms, with 1 room being used as a office/kitchen/staff room and another room that is used as resource area/library. Therefore, 3 classrooms should be used in the calculation of the functional capacity. This would bring the actual functional capacity, at this time, to 58%.
- Councillor Winslow recommended that the study of Burton Elementary School now would reduce the number of schools needing to be studied with the Town of Oromocto Schools. Councillor Douglass agreed that trying to reduce the number of schools being studied is a good decision but that she had reservations to study a school during a worldwide pandemic.
- The Superintendent added that should Burton Elementary School be studied and if a decision was made to close the school, the Oromocto schools that would receive these additional students would need to adjust their class configurations to remain within the pandemic guidelines given by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.
- The meeting platform was brought forward as a concern and, in fairness to the community, these meetings should occur at Burton Elementary School. Approval to study this school and the choice of meeting platform would need to be given by the Minister of Education prior to the Council moving forward. It was noted that in the past, a large parent and community member turnout occurred.

- Councillor Hogan agreed that in some communities, the Council has seen large gatherings, but in other communities, there were very few people in attendance. Therefore, it would be difficult to know how many the Council could expect to attend during this pandemic. She concurred to not move forward with a study on Burton Elementary School.
- Councillor Corey added that with the lack of space at the Burton Elementary School, he would not support a motion to move forward now during the pandemic.

MOTION:

..... **Based on the current enrollment of 37 students, the functional capacity of 58%, and the 16 (K-2) students that live in the catchment area of Burton Elementary School that are currently being bused to a Town of Oromocto school; and that there is a position on the Capital Construction List for a study to be done on the Oromocto area schools that will include Burton Elementary School; and based on the costs to operate and staff the facility at a cost of over \$12,000 per student; I move that the District Education Council engage in a sustainability study on Burton Elementary School with a final decision being made by the Council at the March 2021 public meeting.**

MOVED BY: Jane Buckley

SECONDED By: Sean Winslow

MOTION DEFEATED

Amendment of Major Capital Project Lists - George Street Middle School:

- Councillor Douglass informed the Council that she had been contacted by a member of the public requesting the Council to amend the wording for the George Street Middle School recommendation to reflect; "... the replacement of George Street Middle School to the replacement of George Street Middle School and relocate to a new location on the Fredericton Exhibition Grounds."
- Currently the replacement of George Street Middle School is recorded as project 8 on the ASD-W Major Capital Project Lists that had been submitted to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD). EECD has scored the replacement of the George Street Middle School as priority 6 on the Provincial lists.
- It was stated that the Council does not decide the location of a new school but rather the Province of NB does. The Council may make a recommendation, but it is the decision of the Province. When the location of a new school is being determined, a process needs to be followed. District can provide the logistics to this process and share with Council if needed.
- The consensus of Council was to not get involved any further with forwarding a new school build location recommendation to the Province of NB. **ACTION:** Councillor Douglass will relay this decision to the individual who had made the requests.

Correspondence – Outgoing and Incoming:

PSSC Meetings & Elections:

- School PSSC elections were completed by September 30th for the schools that did not have enough committee members. Schools with committee members within their term did not need to hold an election. A recommendation was made for Councillors to continue to check CLEVR for their school PSSC documents and meeting dates. The district office will follow-up with the schools that have not entered their PSSC information for this school year. If a Councillor does not know when a school PSSC meeting will occur, they were advised to contact Councillor Douglass for her to inform the district office.
- PSSC Training can occur virtually if a school is requesting training.

Teacher Certification Appeal Board:

- Chairperson Douglass shared a recent letter to Council from the Teacher Certification Registrar regarding the Teacher Appeal Board. A request was made for a District Education Councillor to participate in this Provincial board for a 3-year term. Councillor Geburt shared his interests in being a part of this committee and he was selected by the Council as the DEC representative.

